

# CHILDREN PERISH BY FIRE

**Awful Tragedy Occurs in Public School Building at Collinwood, a Suburb of Cleveland--Structure Was Virtual Death Trap.**

(By Associated Press.)

CLEVELAND, O., March 4.—Pinned in narrow hallways, jammed against doors that opened only inward, 170 children in the suburb of North Collinwood, today were killed by fire, spoke, and beneath the grinding heels of their panic-stricken playmates. The awful tragedy occurred this morning in the public school of North Collinwood, ten miles east of this city. At 10 o'clock tonight, 165 bodies were in the morgue at Collinwood, six children still unaccounted for, and all the hospitals and houses for two miles around contained numbers of children, some fatally and many less seriously injured. All the victims were between the ages of 6 and 15 years. The school contained between three hundred and three hundred and twenty-five pupils, and of this entire number only about eighty are known to have left the building unhurt. It will be several days before the exact number of killed is known, as the ruins may still contain other bodies and the list of fatalities may be increased by a number of deaths among children who are now lying in hospitals, hovering between life and death. The school house was of brick, two stories and an attic in height. The number of pupils was more than normally large and the smaller children had been placed in the attic of the building.

**Number of Dead 170 May Be Greater**

There was but one fire escape and that in the rear of the building. There was but two stairways, one leading to the door in front and the other to the door in the rear. Both opened inwards, and it is claimed the rear door was locked. When the flames were discovered the teachers throughout seemed to have acted with courage, self-possession, and to have struggled heroically for the safety of their pupils and marshalled the little ones into columns for "fire drill," which they often practiced. Unfortunately, the line of march in this exercise always led to the front door and the children were not trained to seek any other exit.

The fire today came from a furnace situated directly under this part of the building. When the children reached the foot of the stairs they found the flames close upon them, and so swift a rush was made for the door that in an instant a pile of children was packed against it. The children at the foot of the stairs attempted to fight their way back to the floor above, while those coming down shoved them mercilessly back into the flames. In an instant there was a frightful panic, with 200 pupils fighting for their lives. Most of those killed died here. What happened at the foot of the first flight of stairs will never be known, as all those were caught in the full fury of the panic and were killed. After the flames died away huge heaps of little bodies, burned by fire and trampled into things of horror, told the tale. Within three hours after the fire started and burned itself out, the work of recovering the bodies proceeded. The village fire department had only two engines at all effective in stemming the flames, upon arrival after the alarm was given. Miss Catherine Weiler, one of the nine teachers, lost her life in a vain effort to marshal the pupils of her class and lead them to safety. She died in the crush at the rear door. Her room was on the second floor. When the fire alarm was sounded by the janitor, she marched her pupils out into the hall, thinking it only a fire drill. There the truth dawned upon both teacher and pupils and control was lost. Miss Fisk, another teacher, was taken out alive but cannot recover.

Within five hours practically all the bodies were recovered from the fire. They were placed in rows in the Lake Shore railroad company's shop, which was turned into a temporary morgue. Identification was made only by means of clothing or trinkets. The fire swept away nearly all semblance of human features in the majority of instances. The first identification was made by the mother of Nels and Tommy Thompson, aged 6 and 9 years, respectively. The heads and arms had been burned from both bodies, but the mother recognized the shoes on their feet. About the burned school house there were but a few residences. In one of these Mrs. Clark Sprung lived. Her little boy, Alvon, aged 7, was a pupil of the second grade. When

**Little Ones in Their Struggle to Escape Force Others Into the Flames--Identification of Bodies Is Almost an Impossibility.**

the fire started, the mother ran over to the school. When she arrived the first floor was a mass of flames. At the window of that floor she saw the face of her boy. He recognized her and pleaded for help. Rushing across the street, Mrs. Sprung secured a step ladder and placed it against the window. Climbing up, she reached for the boy, and caught him by the hair. It burned off in her hands and the lad fell back into the flames.

Desolation unspeakable hangs over the vicinity of the school and the whole village of Collinwood. The statement that the back door of the building was locked is made by Walter Kelley, editor of the sporting department of the Cleveland Leader, two of whose children perished.

Besides the children killed inside the building, three little girls were instantly killed by leaping from the attic to the ground. At midnight there were 165 bodies in the morgue, of which 108 were identified, and 57 still unidentified. It is possible that other bodies will be found in the ruins, as at least thirteen children are still missing and not heard from since the fire.

## Japan Depends On Chinese Good Sense To Avert Trouble

(By Associated Press.)

TOKIO, March 4.—Officials of the foreign office today made the following statement to the Associated Press: Japan has issued no ultimatum and made no threats to China in connection with the illegal seizure of the steamer Tatsus. We are depending on the good sense of the Chinese government to release the vessel, express regrets and pay damages. The situation is unchanged.

The Japanese steamer Tatsus was seized at Macao on February 7th by a Chinese custom cruiser, on a charge that her cargo of arms and ammunition was intended for Chinese revolutionists, although consigned to a merchant of that place.

## Chicago Police Raid Lodging House and Capture Four Reds

(By Associated Press.)

CHICAGO, March 4.—Late this afternoon detectives went to a rooming house at 156 Henry street and arrested Gregory, Krish, Gavka and Herburshak, said by the police to be anarchists. While being taken to the patrol box, Krish, it is charged, drew a revolver and attempted to shoot one of the detectives. The revolver was knocked from Krish's hand. A knife was also found in Krish's possession. A further search of the prisoner resulted in finding over one hundred cartridges.

## SIXTEEN MINERS ARE ENTOMBED

(By Associated Press.)

BELLINGHAM, Eng., March 4.—Fire broke out this evening in the Hempstead colliery, near here. Sixteen miners are entombed and rescuers have not been able to reach them. It is thought they have already perished.

## SMALL CIRCLE IN STOCK MARKET

NEW YORK, March 4.—A small circle of professional traders whose operations now make up the score of the daily transactions in the stock market, struggled in vain today to effect any considerable movement. They were hard pushed to find arguments as to a nominal explanation of their operations. The day was practically barren of price movements or news of any interest. Bonds were irregular.

## TREATY RATIFIED BY HONDURAS

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras, March 4.—The Honduras Congress today ratified, with the changes, the treaty and conventions concluded in Washington last year by the Central American peace conference.

## DOVE CONFESSES HE KILLED BEANS

ELKO, Nev., March 4.—Geo. Dove, under arrest for the murder of Tom Beans at Gold Circle last Wednesday night, has confessed to the killing. In justification of his act he pleads self-defense—that he feared his own life was in danger. He made a statement before District Attorney Caine, W. W. Booher and Lambert Henderson yesterday which will be preserved until his trial. It is understood that in this statement he confesses to the killing of Beans, but says that the act was done in self-defense.

As more light is thrown upon the horrible affair it appears more and more to have been one of the most cold-blooded and horrible deeds ever committed in this county.

## RUSSIAN INTEREST IN CAVITE.

(By Associated Press.)  
ST. PETERSBURG, March 4.—Novoe Vremya today devotes one of its leading articles to the American plans for the fortification of Manila, which it believes will convert Cavite into one of the strongest forts in that section.

## WARSHIPS IN A MIRAGE.

HONOLULU, March 4.—Concerning the reported presence of four supposed warships off Oahu nothing has been learned and it is now believed that the report arose out of the existence of a mirage or peculiar cloud effects.

## ENDORSE BRYAN.

(By Associated Press.)  
PROVIDENCE, R. I., March 4.—The Democratic State convention committee today endorsed Bryan and called a State convention for March 21st at Providence.

## STATE BANK MUST SHOW ITS BOOKS

**Judge O'Brien Issues Order Allowing Grand Jury Access to Records of Institution.**

Cashier E. B. Cushman must appear before the Grand Jury with the books and papers of the State Bank and Trust Company, in order that that body may proceed with its investigation of the affairs of the bank, with the object in view of determining whether the crime of embezzlement has been committed, and who has been guilty of the crime.

An order to this effect was made yesterday by Judge O'Brien on the motion of District Attorney McCarran that the books be produced. The decision recites the causes which led up to the motion, to wit: That there is pending before the Grand Jury of Nye county an investigation concerning the commission of certain alleged crimes and felonies by the officers, agents, tellers and clerks of the State Bank and Trust Company; also that evidence has been introduced before the Grand Jury showing that on October 23, 1907, at about 11 o'clock a. m. of that day, the State Bank and Trust Company closed its doors and suspended business and that its business has been suspended ever since; that evidence has also been introduced before the Grand Jury showing that the State Bank and Trust Company did, on October 22, 1907, through its officers, agents, tellers and clerks, receive and accept deposits from various individuals at its Tonopah branch and that evidence has also been introduced before said Grand Jury tending to show that the said State Bank and Trust Company was, on said day, insolvent, and that said insolvency was known to its officers, agents, tellers and clerks receiving said deposits.

The decision says that the authority of the court to compel the attendance of witnesses and to require the production of books or papers necessary or material to an inquiry into matters under consideration is one of the inherent powers of the court.

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## SENATOR PROCTOR IS DEAD

FORMER SECRETARY OF WAR PASSES AWAY AT WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—Senator Proctor of Vermont died at his apartments at the Champlain here this afternoon after a short illness, following an attack of grippe. The Senator's son, Gov. Fletcher Proctor of Vermont, and the Governor's wife, were at the bedside when the Senator passed away. He was 77 years old.

Proctor was Secretary of War under the administration of Harrison, and while in office gave particular attention to the strengthening of the coast and border defenses. Senator Proctor, while in the upper House, in March, 1898, visited Cuba, and upon his return from an investigation of conditions in the island, made a stirring speech in the Senate in regard to the reconcentration of the whole country. The facts presented by him were strongly influential in determining the policy of intervention of this country in Cuba.

## STRICKEN IN SENATE GALLERY.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—D. J. Brennan of Flagstaff, Ariz., was stricken with heart disease in the Senate gallery today. He was removed to Casualty hospital, where he died an hour later.

## TAFT DELEGATION FROM KANSAS

(By Associated Press.)

TOPEKA, Kan., March 4.—Kansas Republicans in State convention here today elected four delegates at large to the Chicago convention who were instructed to vote for the nomination of Secretary Taft for President. Today's convention will possibly be the last State Republican convention to be held in Kansas. Hereafter candidates will be chosen by primaries.

## DENVER EDITOR GIVEN WARNING

(By Associated Press.)

DENVER, March 4.—Arthur Callopy, editor of the Western Home Journal, a Catholic monthly, received through the mail today, following a threat written on a postal card at the bottom of which was drawn a black cross: "If you don't stop trying to hurt the working man by writing against him in your magazine, you will find yourself where the priest is. This is a warning. Signed M."

Mr. Callopy believes that the threat was called out by an article in the last issue of Western Home Journal, written by Rev. Hugh McMenamin, which denounced anarchy in all its forms.

## JAPAN DISCARDS A WARSHIP.

(By Associated Press.)

VICTORIA, B. C., March 4.—News was brought from Japan by the Empress of Japan tonight that the battleship Fusu, built in England in 1877 and brought to Japan by Admiral Togo, when a young officer, has been struck off the naval list.